

Servicemen Pressured for "Truth Dollars"

CAPITAL REPORT

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The most damaging aspect of the operations of the Crusade for Freedom, in my judgment, is the pressuring of Government employees and members of the Armed Forces for what the Crusade is pleased to call "Truth Dollars."

On periodic occasions, all such personnel are solicited under the name of President Eisenhower personally, for contributions to a national "Health and Welfare Fund."

There is a list of highly worthy projects, among which the contributions are to be divided, the idea being that this combined solicitation is a convenience to the giver, and eliminates a lot of duplication drives, all of which is meritorious.

TO INCLUDE THE Crusade for Freedom, however, under this all-but-mandatory solicitation, is gross effrontery. The funds collected by the Crusade go entirely to Radio Free Europe and its affiliated opera-

tions, which are in no way concerned with health or public welfare.

Rather, it is a lush nesting spot for exiled European politicians and men of disreputable and indignant would-be intelligentsia who are preaching the doctrine that the way to combat Kremlin communism is for the Iron Curtain peoples to turn to Titoism.

Mr. Jack Paterson, the paid fund-raiser vice-president of the Crusade for Freedom, challenges my description "all-but-mandatory," and says:

"Participation (by Government employees and Armed Services personnel) is not mandatory in any way, but is entirely voluntary.

"Crusade is allowed to solicit in company with CARE."

The authorship of the voluntary giving system is neither here nor there, nor is the fact

that CARE is included in the list. CARE and Crusade are not comparable, and the inclusion of the one has nothing to do with the justification of the other.

The fact remains that the government personnel who are solicited feel that they are being pressured, as evidenced by a letter from a reader who says he was released from the Army last month. During the two previous years, he says, he was in charge of troop information at an Army post in Alaska.

"At least twice or possibly three times during that two-year period," he says, "our troop information section was charged, from the Army level, with publishing materials explaining the operation of the Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe.

"This publicity campaign was

climaxed each time by a request for at least one 'Truth dollar' from each individual on the post.

"Each unit CO would offer, then, a Saturday morning off for each section under his command that contributed 100 percent. Naturally, this achieved 100 percent cooperation."

THIS MAY BE what Mr. Jack Paterson considers "voluntary giving" but according to my standards it is little short of bribery, blackmail. It certainly is polite military extortion, even if the money were going to charitable organizations.

Inasmuch as it actually goes to the support of foreign political intrigue, which is not even in consonance with the expressed principles of the U.S. government, it becomes the more reprehensible.

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RFE 'Leaks' Loyal Patriots

CAPITAL REPORT

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. — Since I am a gentle and kindly soul by nature, the spirit of the New Year prompts me to extend the hand of helpfulness to the young Ivy League Rover Boys who run the so-called Radio Free Europe and its affiliated enterprises.

I am aware of the consternation and internal confusion that has beset the organization in New York, Munich and Lisbon since I embarked upon this series of columns about their goings-on.

I am aware also that they are frantically trying to identify the "leak" among their number who is feeding me the running information from their files and past records.

On this score, I am happy to be of assistance.

They are in Crusade for Freedom, which is supposed to raise the funds. They are in Radio Free Europe and the Free Europe Press and the Free Europe Committee, and all of the lesser subdivisions.

They range from directors and sponsors down to the lowliest clerks, and they are all completely voluntary. I did not

seek them out. Obviously, I had no way to do so. As a result of my first few articles, which were based on information from several of my highly trusted correspondents in Europe, there was a deluge of offerings from far and wide.

SOME ARE FORMER employees who quit out of disgust or frustration. Some, as I say, are still holding jobs to earn a living, but are outraged with what they are called upon to do and what they see going on around them.

But all of them, all, are motivated by high moral purpose and a resentment against the debasement of an operation that could and should be devoted to noble ends and achievements.

How much the president of the Free Europe Committee knows about what is going on, I have my doubts. He is a retired army friend of President Eisenhower, Lieut. Gen. Willis D. Crittenberger, whom I have

been trying to contact personally since early November. Two months of failure began to persuade me that perhaps the good general is avoiding me.

In any event, the vice president, 31-year-old Samuel S. Walker, Jr., scion of the National City Bank fortune, is aware of the authenticity of my material.

ALL OF THIS HAS been no surprise to me, because I have experienced it before, and it is a source of philosophical gratification and moral reassurance regarding the deep fundamental integrity of my fellow man.

It is, moreover, the most important purifying force in the society of a free people. Bureaucracy, and make no mistake, Radio Free Europe is bureaucracy rampant—tends in itself to become self-toxic like yeast germs in generations of alcohol.

It is only the individuals, who as personal human beings retain their natural reactions and revulsions, who can serve as a conscience for bureaucracy. And they do, in government as well as in private enterprise.

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